

Unjustified classification

5/8/83

In citations of FBI file numbers, the first is FBIHQ 105-82555, the second is FBI Mexico City 105-3702, both Lee Harvey Oswald titled. The subject is the Mexico City report of 5/18/64. The worksheets indicate more pages than the various messages. (Among the possible explanations is the withholding of what the FBI calls administrative pages from the Commission.)

In 5069 (1280) Mexico City forecasts almost unimaginable disaster if its report is declassified for and published by the Commission. MC is so paranoid it would not discuss the matter on the phone. Its fear is exactly that claimed in many FOIA cases and because of disclosure, the fear is proven to be entirely unreasonable:

"...publication would materially damage our operations in Mexico and conceivably would result in the need to ^{confine} suspend them completely."

It also would "destroy" the ^{confidence} "endurance" of sources and "years or work in establishing it."

The worksheet shows disclosure in FBIHQ general releases, 12/77 or 1/78. Copies not attached because copier not working. Serial for checking 3702 worksheets (Section II) is 899. Bud had.

The first page of the 5/18/64 report is stamped "SECRET" but as of 7/14/77 is noted as "all paragraphs are unclassified except where noted" by 2040. Originally the typed copy claims "Group I, Excluded from Automatic Downgrading and Declassification."

5195 (1294) reflects that the report could be and was made suitable for disclosure by FBIHQ. There is extensive withholding within this record, some ridiculous, like "In view of extensive investigation conducted into the allegations of (withheld) and in light of the tenuous nature of his claims, it is deemed inadvisable to delete his identity." With this telling 2040 in 1977 that the name had already been disclosed and published, he withholds it.

This disclosure of classified information, without any reported alterations in texts, from the relatively small percentage of FBI reports that involved Mexico City, is also reported in 5280 (1301A), 5254 (1301B), 5281 (1301C), 5265 (1301D), 5271 (1301E) and 5264 (1302A).

Obviously, no harm resulted from disclosure.